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Art Unit:

layer (104) is configured to compensate for the phase shift induced by the metal mirror which is disposed on the substrate. Col. 4, paragraph 0043. It should be noted that this application does not describe the phase compensator as being configured to compensate for a metal mirror, or even the use of a metal mirror as a component of the rear mirror. Consequently, claim 1 distinguishes Hwang by reciting "*said rear mirror having a phase compensated reflector to act as an output coupler for a lasing mode and to reflect pump light at a proper phase so as to provide phase shifted reflected pump light for a second pumping pass through said gain region.*" (emphasis added) Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-13 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention and are allowable for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1. For example, claims 3 and 4 describe, respectively, the rear mirror being configured to reflect light at the wavelength of the pump laser with a phase of 270 degrees and at a wavelength for lasing with a phase of 180 degrees. Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 2-13 also be withdrawn.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Holmes W. Anderson, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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